

***Amendments to the Specification***

Please amend the paragraph of the specification on page 1, lines 7-26, as follows:

This application ~~claims the benefit of the filing date~~ is a continuation of United States Application No. 09/574,558, filed on May 19, 2000, which ~~claimed the benefit~~ is a continuation-in-part of United States regular Application No. 09/430,821, filed on October 29, 1999, which claimed the benefit of the filing date of United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,264, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled HEADEND UPSTREAM MAC/PHY INTERFACE; United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,427, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled ROBUST TECHNIQUE FOR OPTIMAL UPSTREAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CABLE MODEM SUBSCRIBER AND A HEADEND; United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,438, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled SYSTEM FOR, AND METHOD OF, FRAGMENTING DATA PACKETS IN A CABLE MODEM SYSTEM; United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,439, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled CABLE MODEM SYSTEM; United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,440, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled NETWORK DATA TRANSMISSION SYNCHRONIZATION SYSTEM AND METHOD; United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/106,441, filed October 30, 1998 and entitled BURST RECEIVER SYSTEM, the entire contents of all of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference.